

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 10, 16-24, 32-36, 38, 42, 53-56, and 62 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Johnson et al., U.S. 6,198,860. Claims 14-15, 30-31, 43-44, and 63-64 are rejected under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over Johnson et al. '860 in view of Scherer et al., U.S. 6,711,200. In addition, claims 11-13, 27-29, 39-41, 45-52, 59-61, and 65-72 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten into independent form.

Independent claims 1, 17, 33, and 53 have now been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claims 11, 12, 27, 28, 39, 40, 59 and 60, respectively. They are now deemed to be allowable. Moreover, claims 2-8, 13-16, 18-24, 29-32, 34-36, 41-46, 49-50, 54-56, 61-66, and 69-70 are dependent on claims 1, 17, 33, and 53 and now are also deemed to be allowable.

The application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and an early indication of same is requested.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding matters pending in this application, please feel free to contact the undersigned below.

Respectfully submitted,



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